

Professor Martin Smith: IASCYS Short biography

Martin joined the UK's Cybernetics Society in 1979. The Society was established in 1968 and is believed to be the second oldest surviving cybernetics society in the world. The Society is a "Specially Authorised Friendly Society" regulated by the Treasury of the UK Government. He was awarded Master of Science MSc in Cybernetics from King's College London in 1982. He undertook a number of roles within the Society including Editor of the Journal and Proceedings, Treasurer and Trustee. He was elected Chairman in 1999 and later renamed President. He resigned this post in July 2020 while retaining the post of Trustee. He set up, funded, registered, and contributed much of the reference and resource information for the society's website www.cybsoc.org. The webmaster and archivist was Dr DJ Stewart then Nick Green. The site has been described as one of the most useful resources for Cybernetics on the web. Martin presented papers at the International Association of Cybernetics (IAC) at their conferences in Namur, Belgium in 1983, 1986, 1992, 1995 and 1998, becoming the UK representative to the IAC. Martin has been the sole or principal organiser and chaired all the society's International Annual Conferences since the year 2000. He attracted some of the highest profile people in cybernetics and systems in the UK and abroad to become speakers and Honorary Fellows. In 2009 he persuaded the publishers of *Kybernetes* that it should become the official journal of the Cybernetics Society. He became joint Guest Editor for the journal's 40th Anniversary 2011 edition collating and editing papers presented to the previous Cybernetics Society conference. Martin is probably the longest serving and most active member of the Cybernetics Society in its history.

In 1990 he began supporting schools science and engineering projects especially in robotics. Through this work and as President of the Cybernetics Society he appeared on hundreds of television programmes including as a judge on the BBC TV programme "Robot Wars", appearing on 174 programmes broadcast in 45 countries. He has been interviewed on over 50 radio programmes. In 1996 the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) offered him the role of International Touring Lecturer. He presented his lecture at over 40 venues in the UK and overseas to: science festivals, The Institute of Mechanical Engineers, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Physics, the Royal Aeronautical Society and CERN in Geneva. He has been awarded professorships at the University of Central England, Birmingham, the Open University and Middlesex University London.

His currently held posts include: Associate Editor of the International Journal of Applied Systemic Studies 2006, Member of the Board of Directors of WOSC 2009, Member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of General Systems 2013, Associate Editor of the International Journal of Social Robotics 2013, Member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Advanced Robotic Systems 2013 and Member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Kybernetes* 2013.

He has been a consultant to over 40 organisations and served on over 43 boards and executive committees.

For his outreach work the Institute of Physics awarded him their 2001 Public Awareness of Physics Award. Other awards received include: "Outstanding Reviewer for *Kybernetes* 2012", "Best Paper Award" at the Computing Anticipatory Systems Conference Liege, Belgium, and Freeman of the City of London. He has been awarded Fellowships of the Royal Institution, the Institute of Physics, the Institute of Leadership and Management, the Cybernetics Society, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (the former IEE), the Royal Television Society, the Royal Society of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, and the Royal Astronomical Society.